

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Primary Election April 23, 2024

Pennsylvania State Representative District 38 Democratic Primary

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the Vote411.org online Voters' Guide -- a project of the League of Women Voters. All information in Vote411 Voters' Guides is submitted by the candidates and has not been edited or altered in any way.



You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in this Democratic Primary contest. The winner of this election will be the Democratic nominee on the November ballot.

The 38th Legislative district contains Baldwin, Whitehall, Dravosburg, Glassport, part of West Mifflin, and a few neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh, including Hays, Hays Woods, and New Homestead.

To vote in this election, you must register by April 8, 2024.

Description of office: The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Anthony J. Olasz

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: LAW CLERK

Education: Juris Doctor- Northern Kentucky University
Chase College of Law/B.A. University of Cincinnati (Criminal Justice, Legal Studies)

Qualifications: My Law School Degree gives a wide variety of knowledge on all aspects that the Law and how governance plays into the life of everyday citizens. 3 Years Experience working in Municipal Law and School Law. B.A. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Legal Studies.

Campaign Website: <http://olaszforpa38.net>

Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555538941882



Questions:

Q: *What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how would you address them?*

A: Building up a better infrastructure is not only key to maintain safer roadways and bridges but also a major key in building a stronger economy. I believe that infrastructure is also the unimpeded flow information and access to that information. We must continue to invest in our schools, both primary and secondary education, as well as our trade schools. As has been seen in the past year, our state has unconstitutionally underfunded our children. We need to focus on giving our children the best opportunity to thrive and grow as they become young adults, and that starts in the classroom. Born and raised in the Mon Valley I know exactly how important US Steel is in our area. 3000 workers go to work everyday. The proposed sale threatens Jobs.

Q: *What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?*

A: We must explore all avenues possible to ensure that every citizen has their voice heard on election day. The right to vote is a pillar of our society and one that must not be infringed. Instead of restricting voters access to that voice, we must explore options to get our citizens voices heard in the safest way possible.

Q: *What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?*

A: To ensure a fair and equitable opportunity for all students we must be more vigilant to make sure that all children have and equal and fair opportunity to not only just receive an education, but a great education. We do not tell a team in a football game that one team has to go 120 yards to score a touchdown and the other team only has to go 60 yards. The playing field must be leveled for every student in the Commonwealth and any legislation that levels that field I will support.

Q: *What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?*

A: I am a staunch supporter of women and women's rights. The Commonwealth has been the pinnacle for protecting women's rights to access the critical care that they may need. We must continue to fight for women and continue to show the other states around the United States that we In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will do everything possible to protect our Women.

Victoria Schmotzer

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Policy Analyst

Education: The Catholic University of America - M.S., Business, Busch School of Business & B.A., Philosophy, St. Thomas Aquinas School

Qualifications: United States Small Business Administration Human Resource Specialist, US Govt. Level 5 Security Clearance; Teacher - Early Childhood Development; Legal Intern for Pittsburgh Law Firm; Staff Auditor for CPA Firm; Wrote & Published 9 News-Based Blogs; Restaurant Server

Campaign Website: <http://votersforvictoria.com>

X Handle: twitter.com/Schmotzer38



Questions:

Q: *What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how would you address them?*

A: Pennsylvanians in the 38th District and surrounding communities face an ongoing issue of small businesses moving away from the area and taking well-paying jobs with them. I will incentivize businesses to come to our district by using my knowledge from the U.S. Small Business Administration and power within the State House to administer low-interest rate loans and rezone critical areas in the neighborhoods to be more accommodating. I will also work with the community college in the district to incentivize residents to further their career prospects and build a better future for our residents.

Q: *What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?*

A: The first thing the state can do when it comes to voting access and security is to continue funding county election departments so that they have the necessary resources to facilitate fair and impartial elections. Next, with an influx of residents who speak and read different languages, it is essential to accommodate these different needs. Funding should be prioritized to provide translation devices and literature at polling places.

Q: *What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?*

A: I will only support legislation that fixes the broken system that currently funds our schools. This legislation needs to be fair and on solid footing that ensures each community of every means receives its due share. However, every community is different, just like every school and every student. This is why I support funding allowing every student to receive an Individual Education Plan. These plans will ensure that the students, teachers, and guardians remain on the same page regarding the child's educational path.

Q: *What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?*

A: The first step to protecting the right to family planning is writing it into the state constitution. I will then eliminate the 24-hour waiting period for people seeking medical treatment. A thorough conversation between them and their medical provider is sufficient to determine all options and if they are there of their own free will. The inconvenience of taking additional time away from their responsibilities and spending time and finances on travel will deter vulnerable populations from making the right decision for them. I will also offer a robust sexual education program throughout my district that encompasses all ages and appropriate topics.

John Inglis

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Educator

Education: I have a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Duquesne University and a Master's degree in School Counseling from Westminster College.

Qualifications: Public Educator (2009 - Current), West Mifflin Borough Councilman (2018 - Current), South Hill Area Council of Government Member (2018 - 2022), West Mifflin Community Foundation Board Member (2014-2018) & Council Liaison (2018 - Current)

Campaign Website: <http://inforinglis.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/InForInglis>

X Handle: twitter.com/inforInglis

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/inforinglis/>



Questions:

Q: *What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how would you address them?*

A: Education, providing jobs, and keeping our community safe. Education is the root of all opportunity. Right now, our public schools are being unlawfully underfunded here in Pennsylvania. My first priority is fixing that budget gap. After we fund our schools, we must make sure that our community has good paying jobs. The best way we can do that is to expand the union way of life. Organized labor built Allegheny County, and we have to support it. Finally, to keep our community safe we need to better support our first responders. Our local volunteer fire departments are seeing some especially challenging circumstances right now. They need state help and investments.

Q: *What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?*

A: I think we have made a lot of progress in recent years, but there is still work to do. First, I would enact same day voter registration. Arbitrary deadlines should not stop our citizens from participating in elections. A person should be able to register and vote all on the same day. Second, I would make sure the state is providing adequate resources to county election departments. Local budget shortfalls should never be allowed to harm the security of our elections. Finally, I would look into legislation to crack down on threats made against election officials. No one should be able to intimidate the hardworking men and women who make our Democracy work.

Q: *What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?*

A: I am in support of the proposed Pennsylvania constitutional amendment to change our state income tax to a progressive format, making it more fair and equitable. This will benefit public education and help fill the funding gap. We also should be willing to tap into the rainy day fund. The fund currently sits at a massive 6.1 billion dollars. We can't use all of that to address the education shortfall, but it is the public's money and the education of our children should be one of the state's top priorities.

Q: *What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?*

A: There must be an explicit guarantee for the right to an abortion in Pennsylvania law. Preferably, this would come in the form of a constitutional amendment, but failing that,

legislation should be passed to the same effect. We are fortunate that our current state court system leans towards recognizing the right to an abortion, but as we saw on the federal level, the courts may fail in the future to uphold that right. We also must make sure that no Pennsylvanian or other American will be punished by other states for exercising their rights here in the Commonwealth.